

### REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on June 15, 2004.

Claim 6 is canceled, and claim 27 is added; as a result, claims 1, 4-5, 7-10, 13-14, 16, 19-22, and 24-27 are now pending in this application.

Claim 27 is added at the invitation of the Examiner. Therefore, entry of this new claim is appropriate, since it is cancelled claim 6 rewritten in independent format, and since the adding new claim 27 places claim 27 in condition for allowance.

### §103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 4-5, 7-10, 13-14, 16, 19-22 and 24-25 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asai et al. (U.S. 5,903,730) in view of Ho (US 2002/0156814 A1). Any proposed combination of references must not run contrary to the teachings of the individual references used in that combination. Furthermore, it is fundamental that in order to sustain an obviousness rejection that each and every step in the rejected claims must be taught or suggested in the proposed combination of references.

At the outset, Applicants would like to point out that Ho is directed to virtual business computing. Ho's primary teaching is elucidated in FIG. 4 of Ho and explained in paragraphs 44-45, where it is stated that a generic interface 412 is presented as a black box to the user and actually includes hidden interfaces for at least three separate applications 404, 406, and 408. Thus, Ho's teaching is one of integration and abstraction in that disparate applications and their interfaces are transparently interfaced and presented to a user as a single interface for user interaction and manipulation.

Conversely, Asai is directed to visualizing performance results of applications executing in a parallel computing environment. The primary teaching of Asai "allows the user to evaluate software routines in a parallel processing program through . . . graphical representation . . ."  
*Emphasis Added.* (Asai, col. 2, lines 2-4). This teaching is pervasive throughout Asai and as further example the Examiner's attention is directed to FIGS. 17 and 18 of Asai, where specific file names or procedure names are displayed and profiled for the user by way of a graphical user interface (GUI) screen.

At the outset, Applicants respectfully submit that Ho and Asai cannot be combined, because to do so would run contrary to the teachings of both references. Specifically, in Ho, the entire teaching is directed to hiding and abstracting disparate programs and their interfaces from the user, such that if Ho and Asai were combined then this combination would defeat the very purpose of Ho's black box that transparently hides and integrates multiple applications from a user. The same can be said for Asai. That is, if Ho's black box were incorporated into Asai, then Asai would not be capable of displaying the detail associated with each application processing in parallel.

Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have read Asai and Ho to result in the combination being proposed by the Examiner. Applicants assert that the proposed combination of these two references now in the manner suggested by the Examiner can only be made after reading and comprehending Applicants' invention; and as a result, the proposed combination is improper hindsight and not permissible.

In addition, the Examiner has referenced column 4 lines 8-15 for support that Asai displays a workflow diagram. A complete reading and understanding of Asai demonstrates that Asai displays and presents information in an execution profile display. *E.g.*, Asai, col. 10, lines 7-13; and FIGS. 13-18. There is no teaching or suggestion of a teaching in Asai where a "workflow" is displayed. One of ordinary skill in the art readily recognizes and appreciates that a profile display presenting metadata about a module is not a workflow, which would show relationships and connections between modules in a single view. Further, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been capable or motivated after reading Asai to derive a workflow from the profile displays presented and taught in Asai.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the proposed combination of references is not proper in view of the fact that such a combination would run contrary to the teachings of the individual references and is only achieved through improper hindsight after having read and comprehended Applicants' invention. Additionally, Applicants respectfully assert that Asai fails to teach or suggest the displaying of a workflow, which is positively recited in Applicants' independent claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and withdrawal of the rejections.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

Claim 6 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claim 6; providing that claim 6 is rewritten in an independent form. Applicants have cancelled claim 6 and rewritten newly added claim 27 as claim 6 in independent format. Thus, claim 27 is now in condition for allowance.

Serial Number: 09/557,264

Filing Date: April 24, 2000

Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR COLLECTING INFORMATION IN A WORKFLOW SYSTEM

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney (513) 942-0224 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

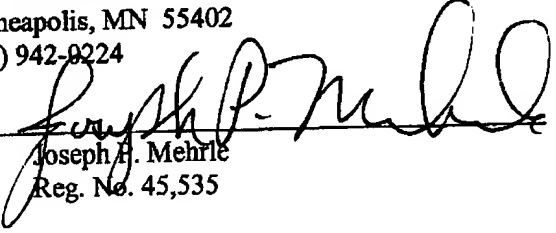
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**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:** The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 15 day of October, 2004.

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